No. 32—Vol. II. Page 249

The Balance, AND COLUMBIAN REPOSITORY.

" HAIL SACRED POLITY, BY FREEDOM REAR'D !
" HAIL SACRED FREEDOM, WHEN BY LAW RESTRAIN'D !"
BEATTIE.

HUDSON, (New-York) TUESDAY, August 9, 1803.

Original Eſſays.

Hither the products of your closet-labors bring,
Enrich our columns, and inſtruct mankind.

FOR THE BALANCE.

A POLITICAL CATECHISM.

[CONCLUDED.]

Queſtion. WHAT is the ſtandard of freedom by which the preſs is and ought to be guided, as it reſpects the character and meaſures of Mr. Jefferſon ?

Anſwer. As it reſpects that auguſt perſonage, the excommunicated " ſect" is, as yet, allowed a very licentious indulgence ; inaſmuch as no *previous* reſtraint is laid on the preſs, by binding federal printers, *while unconvicted of crime*, to keep the peace and to their good behaviour. A great apoſtle of liberty, who contemplates the beauties of the goddeſs, with ineffable rapture and daily kneels at her altar and kiſſes her ſhrine, in vain attempted ſuch a previous reſtraint. Mortifying defeat ! Ah, the blindneſs of certain judges ! They had not far enough advanced in the " march of ſentiment" to perceive the neceſſity and ſalutary nature of ſuch a meaſure.

Q. On what ground was the previous reſtraint attempted ?

A. It was attempted on the ground of the ſtatute of Edward third, a great and worſhipful king of England ; who lived nearly five centuries ago—indeed long before any printing-preſs had been known. A moſt luminous period that was, when all buſineſs in England was done in French and Latin, and the Engliſh tongue was ſcarcely ſpoken. Yet neither the reaſonableneſs of the thing, nor the *antiquity of the precedent* availed. The motion was rejected, tho' preſſed with all the pathetic eloquence that ever inſpired a tongue devoted to liberty's ſacred cauſe. Blaſt the diſappointment !—I waſh my hands of it. —Whatever man, with mere individual might, could do, was actually done. If a ſingle arm could have effected it, the freedom of the preſs would have been eſtabliſhed on a firm and immoveable baſis : but ſome men, who are right in the main need further diſciplining.

Q. Is then the *inviolability* of Mr. Jefferſon's character and meaſures, in no manner ſhielded from the unhallowed touch of federaliſts ?

A. It is, in a manner, (tho' alas ! too feebly,) ſhielded from thoſe vile caitiffs, *by the Britiſh Common Law*.—Printers have the licentious indulgence of publiſhing what they pleaſe concerning Mr. Jefferſon. They are laid under no heavy bonds for their good behaviour : no commiſſioners have been appointed to give a previous licence to political publications. Indeed, " they order things better in France," that dear land of liberty. Printers *here*, I ſay, are allowed to publiſh whatever they pleaſe on politics ; liable merely to fines, bonds and impriſonment, if they preſume to publiſh aught, that may tend to diminiſh the character of our auguſt chief, or of the other officers of government, whom he delighteth to honour.

Q. May not printers publiſh provable truths againſt the adminiſtration, without incurring puniſhment ?

A. No : ſuch an indulgence would lead to the moſt fatal conſequences, and is not to be ſuffered in a free country. It would open a door for intolerable licentiouſneſs ; it would tend to proſtrate government, by bringing it into contempt ; it would expoſe the faults of great men to vulgar eyes, and might wound their feelings. *Truth* is ſharper than a ſerpent's tooth ; it ſtings and irritates an elevated mind, ten-fold more than falſhood. Therefore our wiſe anceſtors, ſome ſeven or nine hundred years ago, eſtabliſhed it as a maxim, that " *the greater the truth, the greater is the libel.*"

Q. Do you then approve the Britiſh government ?

A. None can approve it leſs, or deteſt it more ; it is a ſyſtem of intolerable oppreſſion and ſlavery ; it is a maſs of rotten inſtitutions. To call it a free government is an inſult upon the human underſtanding ; every good republican is bound to execrate it, and to wiſh for its ſpeedy downfall : Yet the Engliſh common law, as it relates to libels, is, under preſent circumſtances, an excellent weapon wherewith to defend the rights of the people ; 'tis exactly ſuited to the condition of this country.

Q. In caſe that Mr. Jefferſon ſhould betray and ſacrifice the deareſt intereſts of the nation, and that the facts relating to his perfidy ſhould be capable of being fully ſubſtantiated by proof ;—might they not be publiſhed with impunity ?

A. Such a thing is impoſſible.—The Engliſh have a maxim, that " the king

can do no wrong :" 'tis ſtupid to ſay this of a king ; but Mr. Jefferſon has more wiſdom, more virtue, more honour, than all the kings have put together, who reign in Chriſtendom.—*He* betray and ſacrifice the intereſt of the nation ! The ſuppoſition is blaſphemy.

Q. Inaſmuch as the angels of light became foul apoſtates, it is ſurely not impoſſible that even Mr. Jefferſon may err and do wrong ; and if ſuch an incident ſhould exiſt and the public ſhould thereby be greatly endangered, ought not the people to know it ?

A. It would be beſt that the people ſhould not know it : the publication of ſuch intelligence would light up the torch of ſedition ; it would diminiſh the people's confidence in their chief magiſtrate, and would eſtrange their hearts from his ſacred perſon.

Q. Should a printer publiſh any fact of this kind, together with ſubſtantial documents in proof ; what muſt be the conſequence ?

A. The preſumptious wretch muſt be indicted, and puniſhed according to law.

Q. Should he produce in court twenty ſubſtantial witneſſes, in proof of his allegation, would not this circumſtance tend to effect his acquital ?

A. If he ſhould produce in court an hundred witneſſes, it could no wiſe avail him. The bench would not permit them to be ſworn : common law forbids it.

Q. If Mr. Jefferſon ſhould perſonally appear in court, and acknowledge the fact alledged againſt him, might not *this* exculpate the publiſher ?

A. It would in no manner tend to his exculpation, but would really aggravate the offence : it would prove that the allegation were *a great truth ;* and conſequently, that it were *a great libel.*

Q. Is this then the perfection of liberty ?

A. It is the quinteſſence, the very marrow of liberty ; it is the ſacred touch-ſtone of orthodoxy.—Whoever does not believe with all his heart, that to publiſh all manner of evil againſt the ex-officers, and alſo againſt the ſecond magiſtrate in the nation, is highly meritorious ; and that to publiſh aught againſt Mr. Jefferſon, (tho' true,) is a damnable ſin ;—whoever does not believe that the Sedition Law, which admitted the truth in evidence, was an act of horrible oppreſſion and tyranny ;—and that the common law, which puniſhes truth as ſeverely as it does falſhood, is the beſt poſſible ſecurity for the freedom of the preſs ;—whoever does not believe and openly profeſs, without any equivocation or mental reſervation, all and every of theſe cardinal points of republican faith, together with all the ſubordinate doctrines and principles, which have been now declared in this *catechiſtical* creed—is an infidel, utterly unworthy to be cheriſhed or tolerated in the boſom of our holy church.

CONSISTENCY.

Selected.

FROM THE EVENING POST.

" We are willing to give ample credit to " Gen. HAMILTON for great talents *in* " *his profeſſion*, great addreſs *as a politi-* " *cian*, great courage as a ſoldier, and *great* " *ambition as a ſtateſman.* His talents, " his addreſs, his courage, and his ambi- " tion, we believe, have been ſtudiouſly " devoted to his *own perſonal agrandize-* " *ment.* [*National Ægis.*]

In anſwer to this pitiful attempt to defame, it might be ſufficient to preſent a ſingle fact—Mr. Hamilton was certainly more than any man able to calculate very early on the conſequences of funding the Debt, and it will eaſily be ſeen that he might, directly or indirectly have availed himſelf of his knowledge, to extend his private fortune to any nameable amount. It is well known, however, that an inceſſant diminution of that fortune was the reſult of his going into the Treaſury, and eventually rendered it neceſſary for him to reſign his ſituation and return to his profeſſion for a ſupport.

But inſtead of diſputing with a pert and ſauſy jackanapes, whoſe impudence is only equaled by his malice, one of thoſe egregious triflers, whoſe vanity ſcruples not to ſacrifice truth to the rounding of a period, we ſhall, as a ſatisfactory refutation of this abuſe, preſent the impartial opinion of one who will be allowed full credit : One whoſe attribute it was to ſee more deeply into real character than almoſt any other man, and who was intimately acquainted with Mr. Hamilton for a long courſe of time both during the revolutionary war and ſince.—Two years after his retirement from public life, WASHINGTON thus expreſſed himſelf in a letter to Mr. Adams :—

Extract of a letter from General Waſhington to Preſident Adams, dated Mount-Vernon, September 25, 1798.

" It is an invidious taſk, at all times, to draw compariſons, and I ſhall avoid it as much as poſſible : but I have no heſitation in declaring that, if the public is to be deprived of the ſervice of Col. Hamilton, in the military line, the poſt he was deſtined to fill will not be eaſily ſupplied ; and that this is the ſentiment of the public, I think I can venture to pronounce. Although Col. Hamilton has never acted in the character of a genaral officer, yet his opportunities, as the *principal* and moſt *confidential* Aid of the Commander in Chief, afforded him the means of viewing every thing on a larger ſcale than thoſe who had only diviſions and brigades to attend to :—who knew nothing of the correſpondencies of the Commander in Chief, or of the various orders to, or tranſactions with, the general Staff of the army.

" Theſe advantages, & his having ſerved with uſefulneſs in the Old Congreſs, in the General Convention, and having filled one of the moſt important departments of government, with *acknowledged abilities and integrity*, has placed him on high ground, and made him a conſpicuous character in the United States and even in Europe. To theſe, as a matter of no ſmall conſideration, may be added, that as a lucrative practice in the line of his profeſſion is his moſt certain dependance, the inducement to relinquiſh it muſt in ſome degree be commenſurate. By ſome he is conſidered an *ambitious* man. That he is *ambitious*, I ſhall readily grant, but, *it is of that laudable kind which prompts a man to excel in whatever he takes in hand.*

" He is enterprizing, quick in his preceptions—and in his judgment *intuitively great ;* Qualities eſſential to a great military character, and therefore I repeat, that his loſs will be irreparable."

Now then let the malignity of age dictate and boyiſh vanity endite—here is the teſtimony of one who could not be miſtaken, and who was incapable of deception.

Balance Closet.

RETORT.

The *civilized* and the *ſavage* man have oppoſite modes of warfare : the *former* ſtands erect in the open field, and bares his boſom to his adverſary : the *latter* lies in ambuſh ; and the corroding wounds, which he inflicts, proceed from an unſeen hand. If purſued to his hiding place, he ſpeeds his flight to another dark retreat ; and plots to *evinare* the enemy, that he dares not meet on open ground.

A like difference of characters is obſervable in the warfare of the *pen*. Some wage it in an open manly manner, and ſcorn to ſhrink from an avowal of any thing they write. Others prefer a *buſh-fight* : in anonymous publications, or under the cover of fictitious ſignatures, they can, with cool and deliberate malice, *commence unprovoked* attacks. They can ſecretly feather their arrows, dip them in poiſon, and aim them, with an exertion of every nerve, at the heart of their marked victim. In their hidden recess, they " grin horrible a ghaſtly ſmile," at the wounds on character, which they have ſecurely inflicted If challenged to avow themſelves, they plunge ſtill deeper into their thicket ; if vigorouſly purſued, they are like the *ſcuttle fiſh*, that, to conceal itſelf, fouls the water with which it is ſurrounded ;—if dragged into open light and dared to a fair combat, they inſtantly cry, " murder."—If their inſulted, incenſed foe make a free uſe of the *gooſe-quill*, and repay them, with intereſt, in their

own coin, they roar aloud against "*philippics*;" and virtually confess *a conscious inferiority*, by throwing down their *gall-dipped* pen, and flying to the *tangles of law*.

This is all the reply, which the Senior editor of the Balance is, at present, disposed to give to Mr. Spencer's late note in the Bee.

A long article appears under the editorial head of the last Bee, concerning the trial of Croswell, but Holt, we are satisfied, was not the author of it. It does not bear those legible marks of stupidity and dullness which distinguish the productions of that hireling editor, from those of a certain *honourable* correspondent. The editor of the Bee is in fact, a mere stalking horse. He is used by men who dare not appear openly as the "base assassins of reputations." Incapable himself of rendering satisfaction for injury, he lends his name to cowardly slanderers, who feel sufficiently secure, when secretly intrenched behind his rotten editorial reputation. But the author of the article in the Bee is well known. His writings cannot be disguised, until they are divested of that malignity and sophistry with which they so much abound.

The charge of *wilful perjury*, which this writer has made against the junior editor, is too serious for newspaper discussion. He will be called to answer for it in a court of justice. No law will be resorted to, which prevents the truth from being given in evidence. On the contrary, the writer will be challenged to *prove* his charge, and if able to do it, will escape the penalty which must otherwise await him.

The writer says,

"We again repeat it, that the objections to the act of congress called the "sedition law did not arise from any idea "that libellous publications ought to escape with impunity and to go unpunished, but they were directed to the interference of congress at all, on the "ground of a want of constitutional jurisdiction."

This is altogether false. There was hardly one democrat in an hundred that objected to the sedition law on account of its supposed unconstitutionality. That was the least objection among democratic printers; and more than half of the people who clamoured the loudest against the law, are wholly ignorant of every article of the constitution: Indeed, it is very doubtful whether one in twenty of them ever read the Sedition law itself. But we will appeal to higher authority. We will turn to the proceedings of the Virginia assembly, and then see what reliance can be placed on the above assertion. The assembly condemned the sedition law, "because it was levelled against the right of *freely examining public characters and measures*, and of "*free communication among the people thereon*." Not a word is here said about the constitutionality of the law. The *principle* which restrains the right of "freely examining public characters" is condemned. In the report, drafted by Mr. Madison, it is declared that "the security of the freedom of the "press requires, that it should be exempt, not only from the previous *inspection* of licensers, but from "the SUBSEQUENT PENALTY OF LAWS." Now if these sentences do not contain an "idea that libellous publications [true or false] ought to escape with impunity and to go unpunished, we do not understand the English language. We might fill a volume with extracts from democratic papers, in support of our position; but we think it needless. The fact is too well known to require any further proof.

The writer further says,

"The sedition law protected president "Adams and the two houses of congress, "whilst it left the vice president (then "Mr. Jefferson) obnoxious to the whole "host of libellers: this especial care of "their chief plainly indicated that the act "was a mere party measure."

This assertion has, several times, been made by democratic printers, and at least once before now by the Bee; but we considered the misrepresentation so gross and ridiculous, as to be totally undeserving of notice. Since, however, it is again repeated, it may not be amiss to give it a moment's attention. The vice president of the United States performs no official act, except in the capacity of president of the Senate. As president of the Senate, he belongs to, and is subject to all the rules and regulations of that house. When the sedition law was in force, the president of the Senate (Mr. Jefferson) was just as much entitled to its protection as Mr. Adams, or any other person. The above quoted sentence is, therefore, *false*, and the insinuation with which it closes, is base and detestable.

Of the case of Frothingham, we are not sufficiently informed to enter into a controversy about it at this time. We have no doubt, however, that the Bee-writer has given it his usual share of false colouring.

[OMITTED LAST WEEK.]

No recent event has given the democratic editors a better chance to exercise their talent at misrepresentation, than the trial of the junior editor. Afraid to let the world know the truth concerning this affair, they have spared no pains to discolour or suppress the facts. Not one of them, to our knowledge, has yet dared to inform his readers, that the truth was not permitted to be given in evidence. Here follows the account published by Cheetham, of New-York—every sentence of which is incorrect:—

"Some time since, the Attorney General of this state brought an action of slander against the noted Harry Crofwell, Editor of the Balance and a little *malignant* paper entitled the *Wasp*. The slander consisted principally of the publication of the base and unfounded story about *black Sally*, originally invented by *Callender* and circulated with great avidity by his friend and correspondent *Coleman*. The Attorney General, Ambrose Spencer, Esq. much to his credit, thought fit to bring an action of slander against Crofwell, for publishing the infamous calumny on the President of the United States. The cause was tried on Friday last at Hudson, and by private letters yesterday received we are informed that the atrocious libeller was brought in guilty by an impartial jury.

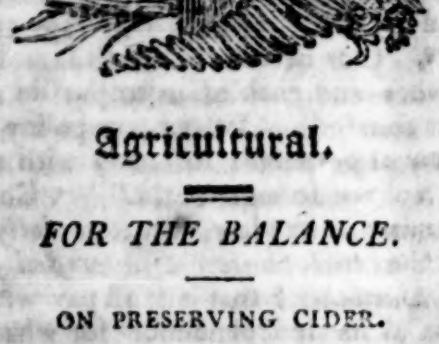
"Chief-justice Lewis presided. Eight federal Lawyers were employed for Crofwell against the Attorney-General, and the Assistant-Attorney, Ebenezer Foot, Esq.

"Coleman owes his present enlargement to the forbearance of the Attorney of this District. How far he is entitled to the clemency of Mr. Riker, to that of the republicans at large, those who have been in the habit of reading his libellous sheets, cannot be at a loss to determine. Coleman and Harry Crofwell have been guilty of the same crime and ought to share the same fate.

"We hope Crofwell's example will be productive of good; candid and liberal investigations are of inestimable value to the state, but the licentiousness of federal presses ought not to be tolerated."

We copy from the Evening Post, the following reply to the above statement:—

It is the singular fate of this fellow, [Cheetham] that when truth and falsehood be both before him, and the former will answer just as well as the latter, he invariably prefers the latter; one of those wretches who are so habituated to lying, that he lies confidently, where truth would answer as well. It is false that an *action of slander* was brought against Mr. Crofwell; if there had been he might have given the truth in evidence, by way of defence: but the method taken by the prosecutor was by *indictment at common law*, where it is held, in the very teeth of justice and common sense, that a man is equally guilty of having maliciously and wickedly published a *falsehood*, although every syllable is strictly *true*. Again; It is false that "the slander consisted principally of the base and unfounded story about *Black Sally*." Altho' one indictment contained five charges, and a second indictment a sixth charge, the story of *Black Sally* is not hinted at in either. We do not repeat the charges here, because it is our intention, after having obtained a correct statement of facts, to take up this trial again, and to make a stand upon it, and to call upon every Federal printer in the United States to join us, and make a bold stand againt TYRANNY. For the present we shall only say, that we are not sensible of owing our exemption from prosecution to Riker, or Spencer, or any other democrat; we should despise the impunity due to such a source—permit us but to justify by giving the truth in evidence, and we ask no more. Guarded in this manner, we challenge the whole host of democracy to take issue with us on what has been from time to time advanced in this paper. If false, let us suffer; if true, there is yet good sense and spirit enough left in the community to uphold and protect us. At any rate, we shall venture to place a reliance on this opinion, and act accordingly.



Agricultural.

FOR THE BALANCE.

ON PRESERVING CIDER.

THE juice of the apple, were the beſt methods uſed in expreſſing and preſerving it, as well as in ſorting the fruit, might perhaps be rendered almoſt equal to the juice of the grape. The following method of preſerving cider is mentioned in Dean's huſbandry. "An experiment, ſays a valuable correſpondent, in the county of Suffolk (Maſs.) was made in the year 1764. Some iron bound caſks of cider were placed in a cellar which was always ſo full of cold ſpring-water, as to keep the caſks conſtantly covered, with the water running upon them continually. As the water was at all times equally cold, it kept the cider not only from the influence of the air, but fermentations in liquor.—In which place it continued from October to May following. It was then drawn off into barrels, and was pronounced to be the beſt of cider, by very good judges."

He adds, "In this manner the famous Falernian wine, ſo often mentioned by the Latin poet Horace, was kept, being ſunk in the river Tiber, which waſhed the walls of Rome."

Monitorial Department.

To aid the cauſe of virtue and religion.

FOR THE BALANCE.

ON INSTRUCTING YOUTH FROM LIVING EXAMPLES.

AN excellent method of producing in young minds a veneration for virtue and a dread of the conſequences of vice, is to contraſt the one to the other, by exhibiting to their view the oppoſite characters of the virtuous and the vicious. Sophron ſometimes ſays to his children, "mark the merit of Antenor: without a patrimony, without the props of wealthy and influential relations, he has raiſed himſelf and become reſpectable, by his own induſtry, prudence and integrity. Now look at Florio: his means were great; his father left him a large patrimony; he had powerful connections able and ready to bring him forward in the world: but his vices have undone him. By wallowing in the mire of debauchery, he has diſſipated his eſtate, impaired his underſtanding and poiſoned his health; and has become an object of contempt."

"You can be at no loſs as to which of theſe two characters you would chooſe. Therefore imitate the virtues of Antenor, and ſhun the vices of Florio." This way of teaching by example is often more efficacious, than by precept.

Doctor Hitchcock, in his "Domeſtic Memoirs," has the following uſeful anecdote.

"An old military gentleman, who was as much diſtinguiſhed for his morals as for his courage, told a friend, that his father, who was a ſenſible man, but extremely devout, ſeeing that he was much inclined to a certain vice, ſpared no pains to curb this propenſity; but finding, notwithſtanding all his care, that his ſon ſtill perſiſted in his vices, he carried him to an hoſpital eſtabliſhed for the cure of a certain vile diſeaſe; and without any previous intimation of his deſign, led him into a gallery full of thoſe unhappy wretches, who were ſeverely expiating the folly which had brought them thither. At this hideous ſpectacle, ſo offenſive to all the ſenſes, the young man grew ſick. "Go thou wretched debauchee, ſaid the father, with a ſignificant look and emphaſis, follow thy looſe inclinations; it will not be long before thou wilt think thyſelf happy in being admitted into this place. Or, perhaps, a victim to the moſt infamous ſufferings, thou wilt compel thy father to thank God for thy death. Theſe few words, joined to the affecting ſcene before him, made an impreſſion upon the young man, which time could never efface. Condemned, by his profeſſion, to ſpend his youth in garriſons, he choſe rather to bear the raillery of his companions than imitate their vices."

POLITICAL APHORISM.

A GREAT operation, directed to an important object, though it ſhould fail of ſucceſs, marks the genius and elevates the character of a miniſter. A poor contracted underſtanding deals in little ſchemes, which diſhonor him if they fail, and do him no credit when they ſucceed.

Junius.

Political.

FROM THE EVENING POST.

MR. LIVINGSTON'S MEMORIAL.

THIS evening we conclude the Memorial, which has been ſaid by ſome of the Chancellor's friends, to have had a preponderating influence in inducing the French Court to accede to our views in the purchaſe of Louiſiana. How far this memorial, drawn up and preſented to Bonaparte ſome months ago, and a copy of which we are informed, has been in this city ſome ſix or eight weeks ſince, could have a deciſive operation on his mind, may be a matter of ſpeculation.

We have received ſome private letters on this ſubject which would go farther to elucidate the point, were it ſuppoſed to be material at this time to have it ſettled. Diſmiſſing all conjectures of this ſort, we ſhall beſtow a few remarks, on the Memorial itſelf.

In the firſt place, it would ſeem, if Mr. Livingſton's judgment and information may be relied on, the acquiſition of Louiſiana is really of very queſtionable value, to ſay the beſt. He ſays, the cultivation of "this hot and *inſalubrious* climate is to be carried on by *ſlaves;* of courſe then, the ſlave trade is to be forever ſupported and encouraged by our Government. Let the friends of humanity reflect upon this. But he goes on to prove, that the labour of theſe ſlaves will not, after all, produce any profit to their employers, at leaſt for many years.—"On their arrival at Louiſiana, (ſays he) the ſlaves will be employed in the barren occupation of felling the large foreſts with which this immenſe country is covered, a labour but little ſuited to ſlaves, for it requires being long accuſtomed to the ax, and force and activity are ſeldom found in ſlaves; they muſt be cloathed, fed and maintained during *whole years before any profit can be derived from them.*"

"Who then (he aſks) will cultivate Louiſiana with ſlaves?" Here, firſt Louiſiana can only be cultivated by ſlaves—next a queſtion is put implying that it can never be ſo cultivated. We confeſs we do not very well comprehend what the Honourable Chancellor would now be at. In the courſe of the Memorial he aſſerts that "the pains, expences, and loſs of men, which are inſeparable from *new ſettlements* in a *marſhy country and a burning climate; the invaſion of Indians; the inſurrection of ſlaves, &c. &c.* all theſe inconveniences united, are enough to *ſtop an undertaking and ruin a ſettlement.*" If ſuch be the true eſtimation in which Louiſiana is to be held, we repeat it, we are

yet to learn how it becomes ſuch an immenſe acquiſition, as, that FIFTEEN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS is to be deemed a cheap purchaſe.

In a ſpirit of candor, however, we are compelled to admit that we do not think that this is exactly the true light in which we are to view Louiſiana; it ſhall not be denied by us that it is a valuable territory and that its acquiſition with that of the iſland of New-Orleans, is of primary importance to the United States. We are, therefore, charitably diſpoſed to believe that the Honourable Chancellor when he drew up this memorial which is to ſtamp immortality on his name, humbly conſented, for the time being, to turn the dignified character of the American Miniſter at Paris into that of a petty chapman, and by taking the advantage of the ignorance of the Firſt Conſul and of all his court, to *beat him down* in the price. Should he then have been rebuffed with the unexpected reply of "Sir this might do with petty provinces, but a Great Nation never commutes its territory for pelf;" ſhould ſuch have been the anſwer originally given, we think it ought not to occaſion much ſurprize in the American reader; nor on the other hand, ſhould the Firſt Conſul afterwards have found his ſituation and circumſtances ſo eſſentially changed with regard to Europe, as to have made it his policy to liſten to the propoſals which he had firſt ſpurned at, can we think the memorialiſt would thereby become entitled to a wreath of never-fading laurels, for his extraordinary diplomatic talents?

Having diſpoſed of the commercial part of this far-famed memorial, we ſhall finiſh with a few remarks on its political ſentiments. "Woolen articles and hardware (ſays he) are the only articles which America receives from England; but France ſhall furniſh not only all theſe, but her agriculture will gain by the ſale of her wines, brandies, and oils. Thoſe advantages (adds he) that is, the ſale of wine, brandy and oil, have exhibited France as the *natural ally* of the United States, to the eye of thoſe who have conſidered, in the extent of her power, a new pledge of the ſecurity of their commerce and their future tranquility." As we have to confeſs our ignorance of what is meant by one nation's being the *natural ally* of another, we cannot undertake to ſay, but that ſuch an alliance, if it really exiſts, may as well be produced by the ſale of French brandy as by any other means, and therefore, for the preſent, we let this paſs. But who thoſe patriots can be, who conſider the American commerce and tranquility as depending on the ſecurity furniſhed us by the extenſive power of France, we know not; for ourſelves, we ſhould be among the laſt to place any great reliance on ſuch a ſource of ſecurity as this. It is true, France might be willing to protect us, and do us the ſpecial favour of devouring us at laſt. However, it is about as much as they are equal to, to protect themſelves. This abject flattery might poſſibly have been expected in a democrat during the firſt days of the French revolution, but now, at this time of day, when the heyday of Gallo-American phrenzy has principally ſubſided, to find it now in the official document of a public miniſter, argues nothing leſs than a mind radically defective and diſeaſed.

Of the ſame nature is the expreſſion afterwards made uſe of; "*Two people formed to aſſiſt one another.*" If we are formed to aſſiſt France, and bound to aid her in all her difficulties and embark in all her quarrels, as the loving democrats once contended for, we ſuppoſe Mr. Jefferſon, when he told us that it was one of "the *eſſential* principles of our Government" to have "entangling alliances" with no nation, he muſt have intended an exception in favor of France; and indeed, if ſhe is our *ally by nature*, as the Chancellor has it, this muſt *naturally* be expected of us. But here we beg permiſſion to oppoſe to this notion of Mr. Chancellor Livingſton's *that France is our natural ally*, the language of one whom no democrat we feel aſſured, after what has lately happened at their public feſtivals, will dare to attack, and whom every federaliſt is proud to remember was once our Chief. It is a letter from General Waſhington to the Chiefs of the Six Nations, dated in 1757, and is found in the American Magazine printed at Philadelphia nearly fifty years ago—

"BRETHREN,

"We are glad to ſee you, and are ſorry that ſuch reports diſquiet you. The Engliſh do not intend to hurt you, or any of your allies. This news, we know, muſt have been forged by the French, *who are conſtantly treacherous*, aſſerting the greateſt falſhoods whenever they think they will turn out to their advantage. They ſpeak, and will promiſe fine things, but all from the lips outward, whilſt their heart is corrupted and full of venomous poiſon. The Engliſh, your real friends, are too generous to think of uſing their allies in this manner."

And this mention of the venerable Waſhington, ſuggeſts another prominent ſentiment, which he has been at great pains to inculcate in his affectionate farewell Addreſs to the people of the United States. "*Exceſſive partiality* (ſays he) *for one foreign nation*, and *exceſſive diſlike* of another, cauſe thoſe whom they actuate to ſee the danger only on one ſide, and ſerve to veil and even to ſecond the arts of influence on the other." "The great rule of conduct for us, in regard to foreign nations, is in extending our commercial relations; to have with them *as little political connection as poſſible*." "It muſt be unwiſe in us to implicate ourſelves by artificial ties, in the ordinary viciſitudes of her politics, or the ordinary combinations and colliſions of her friendſhips or enmities. Our detached and diſtant ſituation invites and enables us to purſue a different courſe." 'Tis our true policy to ſteer clear of *permanent alliances* with *any* portion of the foreign world." "Conſtantly keeping it in view, that *it is folly in one nation to look for diſintereſted favours from another*; that it muſt pay with a portion of its independence for whatever it may accept under that character; that by ſuch acceptance, it may place itſelf in the condition of having given equivalents for nominal favors, and yet of being reproached with ingratitude for not giving more. *There can be no greater error than to expect or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation.* 'Tis an illuſion which experience muſt cure; which a juſt pride ought to diſcard."

Thus ſpoke the ſage Waſhington in the laſt addreſs he ever penned—an addreſs breathing genuine patriotiſm in every line, fraught with good ſenſe, and dictated by the moſt earneſt ſolicitude, in "the pureſt of all poſſible hearts," for our welfare; an addreſs containing "the counſels of an old and affectionate friend," to which he flattered himſelf, his countrymen would "now and then recur to moderate the fury of party ſpirit, to warn againſt the miſchief of *foreign intrigue*, and to guard againſt *the impoſtors of pretended patriotiſm.*" But the American miniſter at Paris holds a very different language—According to him we have a *permanent alliance* with France, for it is formed by *nature* herſelf; there is "no point of colliſion between" us; we are "two people formed [expreſsly] to aſſiſt each other." From France we are to look for the moſt "diſintereſted favours," and are, of courſe, to loſe no opportunities to confer "diſintereſted favours" on her in return.

Had Mr. Livingſton ſtopped even here, though it would have evinced that "exceſſive partiality" to France, againſt which Waſhington ſo ſtrongly cautions us, it would have been leſs objectionable, on the ſcore of prudence and propriety, than the "exceſſive diſlike" which he afterwards betrays towards England.

"I am incapable (ſays the Chancellor) of conceiving the ridiculous idea of threatening a government, which has ſeen *all Europe bend the knee before its power.*" It can hardly be ſuppoſed this is very palatable to Ruſſia or Pruſſia, or calculated to call forth the good will of England towards us. But this is not all. "I have obſerved (he proceeds) that France and the United States are in a reſpective ſituation, ſo fortunate as to have no point of

colliſion. They may aſſiſt, without being tempted to hurt one another. This commerce is uſeful to both nations, this union of ſentiments and intereſts reſts upon principles which ought to form the maritime code, and—*deliver the Univerſe from the Tyranny founded by Great Britain*, which ſhe maintains, and which never will be combated with ſucceſs, until the other powers, by uniting, will abridge her means, by tranferring, to *nations more moderate*, a part of her commerce," &c. On this extract we do not chooſe to ſay all it ſuggeſts; but we aſk Mr. Livingſton and his friends, what would be their emotions, what the embarraſſment of the executive, ſhould G. Britain demand of the American government, as of right ſhe may, to avow, or diſavow this ſentiment of our public miniſter.

We can obſerve to theſe gentlemen, that, however this thing may be winked at, at this day, it would have been attended with very ſerious conſequences, did the great Chatham preſide over the Britiſh councils. This illuſtrious ſtateſman, whom "modern degeneracy never reached," was too ſtrongly impreſſed with the juſt importance of national character, to permit the ſmalleſt inſtance of inſult to paſs by, without demanding and receiving adequate ſatisfaction. As it is the known temper of our government, however, to bear patiently with indignities from every other nation, it may have been thought by the ambaſſador that we ought to indemnify our pride in ſome ſmall meaſure, by treating others with indignity in turn. We ſhall only obſerve, therefore, that it may be as well for us to borrow a little of Lord Cheſterfield's prudence, when he kicked the paltroon, and *take care whom we kick*.

On the whole, although Mr. Livingſton in the concluſion of his paper, thinks that "time and experience will demonſtrate the ſolidity of his remarks," and doubtleſs indulges the notion that his talents will be reſpected by *poſterity*, we cannot think his memorial is calculated to add to his fame on the ſcore of abilities, good ſenſe or diſcretion.

To conclude in a few words theſe remarks, already extended to an unforeſeen length, we ſhall ſay, that though the purchaſe of Louiſiana and New-Orleans, ſhould turn out to be rather a coſtly one, yet, on a great national ſcale we are inclined to think well of it. Two things are, however, certain; one, that it might have been had for a tenth of the money, which report ſays we are to pay for it, *more than fifteen million of dollars*, for commodore Truxton with a tender and one hundred men would with eaſe have taken New-Orleans, in the ſtate in which it was; and ſecondly, that the purchaſe at this time has been ſolely owing to the burſting out of war between France and England, which rendered it neceſſary for France to part with it, to prevent its falling into the hands of her enemy, who had already an expedition in forwardneſs to ſeize it.

On the ſeperate merits of Mr. Jefferſon, Monroe, and Livingſton, who each ſeems to think himſelf entitled excluſively to the honour of having effected this important purchaſe, we take the liberty of expreſſing ourſelves in the form of an epigram:

Our Livingston declares Monroe
Had no assistance yielded;
Monroe, again, says Livingston,
No more had done than he did.

No credit either to Monroe
Or Livingston is due,
Says Jefferson; say they in turn,
No credit's due to you.

Pch, pch, says Truth, why make you such a pother?
You all are right, 'twas neither one nor t'other.

Be it our weekly task,
To note the passing tidings of the times.

Hudson, *Auguſt* 9, 1803.

Laſt week, the proceedings in the caſe of H. Croſwell at the ſuit of the People, were brought before the Supreme Court at Albany, when on the application of defendant's counſel, the final deciſion on the queſtion for a new trial was poſtponed to November term.

Perhaps our democrats will ſay, that as Mr. Jefferſon has the peculiar knack of making a ſmall ſum go a great way in the payment of *private* debts, he can, by applying the ſame rule to the payment of *public* monies, render the purchaſe of Louiſiana a cheap bargain.—If ſo, then, if £3 10 will pay a debt of £50.* including eight year's intereſt, how much will the payment of 15,000,000 dollars require?—The reſult of this ſimple queſtion will ſhew the true principle of democratic calculation, and prove that the Louiſiana purchaſe is not ſo bad a bargain as ſome may have imagined. [*Lanſingburgh Gazette.*]

* *Vide account of a payment made by a certain great man to Gabriel Jones.*

General Poſt-Office, July 22, 1803.

Whereas ſundry repreſentations have been made to this office of loſſes ſuſtained in the tranſmiſſion of money by the mail, whereby it appears that depredations may have been committed by ſome agent of the department. Be it therefore known that by virtue of the powers by law in me veſted, I do hereby offer a reward of *Four Hundred Dollars* to any perſon or perſons who will give to this office ſuch information as ſhall produce the conviction and puniſhment of the perpetrator of any ſuch crime.

GIDEON GRANGER, P. M. G.

Governor Claiborne, of the Miſſiſſippi territory, has iſſued a proclamation, offering a reward of *Five Hundred Dollars* for apprehending Samſon Maſon and his aſſociates, who have for ſome time infeſted that territory, and have committed unparalleled outrages upon the property and perſons of the United States.

Mr. Jerome Bonaparte, brother to the Firſt Conſul, has arrived at the city of Waſhington from the Weſt-Indies via Norfolk.

Captain Denſmore, of the brig Orient from Tobago, informs us, that the iſland was captured by the Britiſh on the 20th June. [*Mercantile Advertiſer.*]

Capt. Calvert, arrived at Philadelphia in 32 days from Liſbon, informs, that a day or two before he ſailed, a Britiſh packet arrived, the captain of which mentioned the loſs of two Britiſh frigates, one by capture, the other by being drove aſhore in a gale. He alſo mentioned the capture of a French frigate by the Britiſh, but the names of either are not remembered.

It was currently reported at Liſbon, THAT THE FRENCH HAD TAKEN AND HELD POSSESSION OF BREMEN. [*Ibid.*]

French papers to the 26th May were received at Philadelphia by the brig Ariſtides, capt. Dill, from Bordeaux. Mr. Monroe had left Paris on his way to the court of Madrid, where he is to complete the object of his miſſion. Capt. Dill brought diſpatches for our government. [*Ibid.*]

Capt. Wanton, of the Schr. William & Margaret from Martinique, informs us, that on the 12th July (the day on which he ſailed) a Britiſh ſloop of War, notwithſtanding an inceſſant and heavy fire from the fort, cut out a French merchant ſhip, of 300 tons burthen, laſt from Guadaloupe, the crew of which eſcaped in their boat. American produce high at Martinique. [*Ibid.*]

Captain Haley, of the ſchooner Sally, in 16 days from Montſerat, informs us, that the day previous to his ſailing, a Britiſh Packet, called the London, arrived there from Barbadoes, with information, that an expedition had gone againſt Demarara. [*Evening Poſt.*]

We learn from Cape-Francois, by Captain Haley of the ſloop Olive Branch, that an engagement took place the 19th July on the plains between one party of brigands againſt the other (for the negroes, it appears, are divided into two parties, one in favor of the French, and the other in oppoſition) the iſſue of which was not generally known; and that a body of brigands was in motion at a ſhort diſtance from the Cape, for the purpoſe, as was ſaid, of going againſt Fort Dauphin. Four Britiſh 74's and 2 frigates were before the Cape, and had captured ſeveral French veſſels, but permitted Americans to paſs and repaſs without moleſtation. The Government evinced a diſpoſition to defend the place to the laſt extremity. Proviſions of all kinds were in great plenty; and American produce had fallen conſiderably in conſequence of the many cargoes which had lately arrived. [*Ibid.*]

Extract of a letter from Mr. J. Beeſly, proprietor of the American Coffee-Houſe at Cape-Francois, to the Editor of the Mercantile Advertiſer, dated July 14th, 1803.

"Every thing here is in a ſtate of ſuſpenſe reſpecting War or Peace. Three Engliſh 74's and ſix frigates blockade this port. They capture all French veſſels, and order them for Jamaica. Not leſs than 20 ſail have been taken and ſent thither within the laſt 15 days. Some few Americans have eſcaped; but thoſe which have arrived were chaſed cloſe in with the harbour. We underſtand the Engliſh commander on this ſtation has orders to capture all French veſſels bound in or out of this port. The Government appears to be much alarmed. In conſequence, the duty is taken off all American produce.

"A cenſus of the inhabitants was taken yeſterday, that the proviſions may be equally diſtributed. A number of French veſſels have been cut out of Jeremie by the Engliſh. We have two 74's and 4 frigates in this port which are preparing for France with all poſſible diſpatch. A hot preſs of French ſeaman has taken place both in the harbour and on ſhore. You may expect to hear of an engagement before long.

"All kinds of American produce have taken an uncommon riſe. Flour 22 dollars per barrel by the cargo, pork 25, beef 16, rice 10 cents, lard 18, butter 25, lumber 38 dollars per 1000."

Extract of a letter from France.

COMMERCIAL AGENCY OF THE U. STATES.

Paris, May 30, 1803.

SIR,

I have now the ſatisfaction of informing you, that in virtue of a convention lately entered into by our miniſters with this government, all American claims which are embraced by the 2d and 3d articles of the convention concluded in September, 1800, are to be reviſed by a board of three American citizens, and as far as may be approved by them are to be paid, principle and intereſt, in bills drawn by our miniſters, on the treaſury of the United States. The board is to be formed immediately, and is to ſit no longer than twelve months—it will be well, therefore, for you immediately on the receipt of this letter to ſend me by two different opportunities, a notarial power of attorney for the ſum that may be liquidated in favour of your veſſel the

detained by the embargo on American veſſels at Bordeaux in the years 1793 and 1794, the whole of which is in my charge. You will inſtruct me by letter at the ſame time, in what manner and to whoſe order you wiſh me to remit the bills that I may obtain for your account.

I am, with eſteem, ſir, yours,

(Signed) FULWAR SKIPWITH.

BRIDGETOWN, (BAR.) JULY 9.

SURRENDER OF TOBAGO.

This important event has juſt been announced to the public by royal ſalutes from the pilgrim and Charles Forts, His Excellency Lord Seaforth, having received official information of the ſame from Lieut. General Grinfield.

Extract of a letter from his Excellency, Lt. Gen. Grinfield, to the Rt. Hon. Lord Seaforth, dated Centaur, Courland Bay, Tobago, July 3, 1803.

I have again the ſatisfaction of addreſſing myſelf to you, and to announce to you the ſurrender of this iſland by capitulation, with no loſs on our ſide, and very little on that of the French.

Immediately on our landing on the 30th June, the two leading columns puſhed into Mount Grace, in ſight and within little more than two miles of Fort Scarborough; the ſummons was then ſent to the French General, who returned an anſwer by offer of capitulation. The terms were finally ſettled about four in the morning of the 1ſt, and at 11 we took poſſeſſion of fort Scarborough, and the French, conſiſting of ſailors and all, of 228, laid down their arms.

(Signed) W. GRINFIELD.

HAGUE, JUNE 4.

The Biſhoprick of Oſnaburgh has ſurrendered to the French by capitulation. On their approach the Hanoverian garriſon evacuated the country. The French, in three columns, are in full march for Hanover. They have a park of 50 pieces of artillery.

"Mr. Liſton (Engliſh Miniſter) has demanded his paſſports.—He will leave a charge des affairs."

ROTTERDAM, JUNE 7.

"The number of French troops, which entered Quakenburgh, in the Biſhoprick of Oſnaburgh, amounted to 6000."

From the GRENADA GAZETTE, OF JUNE 24.

"Yeſterday arrived here a ſhip and two brigs, out of four French prizes, laden with produce: it appears that on Tueſday morning laſt, his Majeſty's frigate Venus of 32 guns, in reconnoitering off Tobago, perceiving, or having had intelligence of ſeveral homeward bound loaded ſhips being in Courland Bay, run in under French colours, and not being ſuſpected, cut out two ſhips and two brigs; one of which ſhips we learn was a very large one, called the Phœnix, having upwards of 1500 hogſheads of ſugar on board, which is ſent to Barbadoes, the other ſhip and brigs are thoſe mentioned to have arrived here."

The Knell.

At New-York, on Saturday the 30th ult. after a lingering illneſs, deeply lamented by her numerous friends and relations, Mrs. ANN BELDEN, wife of Mr. Ebenezer Belden, publiſher of the Commercial Advertiſer, in the 23d year of her age.

At Baltimore, Monſieur JAMES LEVILDAIN, Conſul from the French Republic for the ſtate of Maryland.

JAMES T. CALLENDER, late editor of the Recorder, was drowned at Richmond, Virginia, on the 17th ult.

ERRATUM.

IN the laſt number of the Balance, page 244, near the middle of the firſt column, for "death" read *dearth.*

To Correſpondents.

The fact related by "OBSERVER," is worth preſerving, and ſhall have a place.

"TATLER," is under conſideration.

A communication from Chatham, ſhall be attended to.

The Wreath.

FOR THE BALANCE.

SONNET,

WHY, sweet deluder, dost thou still engage
To make the airy form of pleasure mine?
Is it my grief one moment to assuage,
And then to keener woes my hours resign?

Too oft, alas! my fond believing heart
Has own'd the impression of thy pleasing tale;
Too oft a victim of thy magic art,
The real scenes of life I've dar'd to veil.

Oh, sport no more with feelings tun'd to woe;
Seek not of care my bosom to beguile;
All ideal transports now I will forego,
And rather court thy frown, than meet thy smile.

Thus shall the present all my thoughts employ,
Nor shalt thou, fancy, aught these thoughts annoy.

JULIENNE.

Kingston, Ulster County.

THE INCURABLE.

BY DR LADD.

DOCTOR, I'd have you know I'm come,
As far as 'tis from here to home,
To tell you my condition.
I've got the itch: I've got the gout:
My shins are broke: I've hurt my foot:
I want a good physician.

The Doctors say, my liver's bad:
My pulse are quick: my heart is sad:
My stomach's out of order:
I've got a hobbling in my gait:
My words I cannot speak them strait:
O tell me my disorder.

My hands are weak: my sight is dim:
And now and then my head will swim:
My neighbours wont insure me.
But the worst plague of all my life,
I've lately catch'd *a scolding wife*:
O Doctor, can you cure me?

FROM THE BOSTON GAZETTE.

PARODY OF SHAKESPEARE'S STARVED APOTHECARY.

THE NEEDY POET.

I DO remember a ragged Poet,
In yonder loft he dwells, whom late I noted
O'er his desk leaning with a meagre look,
Scratching his pate to find a new idea,
For many a line of bad verse he had spun;
Around his walls were blotted sonnets stuck,
Interlined odes, addressed to his mistress,
Of ill shaped metre, and on his table
The embryo of a song, a smutty ink horn,
Stumps of old pens, a broken handled penknife,
Remnants of ballads, epitaphs and satires,
The *Aurora*, *Chronicle* and Cheetham's *Citizen*,
Noting these papers, to myself I said,
An if a man did wish to buy an ode,
In praise of J********n, or *Billy Duane*,
Here lives the needy rogue would sell it him.
Being just before *election*, he is full,
Making and selling lies by dozens.

TRIM.

July 18.

Diversity.

BEWARE WHERE YOU SET YOUR DECANTERS.

IN the American Museum, (1791,) there is mentioned the following remarkable incident.

"I was taking a walk in my garden, (says the correspondent,) when my servant came in haste to tell me my chamber was on fire, that that a strong smell of burnt linen and a thick smoke were perceived, issuing through the windows. Upon stepping into my chamber, I perceived a thick smoke immediately; but was still perfectly at a loss how to account for this accident. We looked for the place from which it came; and at last perceived it rising from a dark callico curtain. The mystery is explained; a spherical decanter stood between it and the window: the sun shone in full splendor, and its rays were converged by the figure of the water; and exactly at the focal distance hung the curtain. The bottle had the effect of a burning glass; and from a singular concurrence of circumstances my house was near being burnt. Had the accident escaped timely notice, the building would have been destroyed, and the cause could never have been suspected."

A HINT TO SEA-FARING PEOPLE.

FROM various experiments it appears, that most men are specifically lighter than common water, and still more considerably lighter than sea water. Consequently, could persons who fall into the water, have presence of mind enough to avoid the fright usual on such occasions, many might be preserved from drowning; and a very small piece of wood, such as an an oar, would buoy a man above water, while he had spirits to keep his hold.

A Gentleman who had been on board a Maltese ship of war, observed hanging to the tafferel, a block of wood almost like a buoy, and so balanced that one end swam upright carrying a little flag-staff with a small vane: the person who was on duty on the poop had orders to cut the rope by which the buoy hung, upon any cry of a person falling overboard; and as the the block would be in the ship's wake by the time the person floated therein, he was sure of having something at hand to sustain him, till the boat should come to his assistance, and should that take so long time to do, as that the distance from the ship to the man rendered him invisible, yet the boat would have a mark to row towards, shown them by the vane.

OLD Frederick, king of Prussia used to say, "The Bible is a staff which God put into the hands of blindmen to guide their steps. But they, instead of applying it to that use, immediately began to dispute and wrangle about its length, breadth and thickness; and concluded by knocking each other over the pate with it."

APHORISM.

HE who writes with insolence, when anonymous and unknown and speaks with timidity in the presence of the good—seems to be closely allied to baseness.

Lavater.

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